

Message Text

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44

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 USIA-15 INR-10 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

HEW-08 SPC-03 PA-04 PRS-01 L-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

/076 W

----- 100734

R 271310Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9472

INFO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 18436

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: "OPERATION BIG LIFT" - GERMAN STUDENTS TO US

REF: (A) FRANKFURT 8359; (B) STUTTGART 1064; (C) STATE
213096

1. SUMMARY: IN BONN, SCHWARZ-SCHILLING'S BIG LIFT PROPOSAL HAS BEEN, OR IS BEING, STUDIED BY FED MIN OF EDUCATION, THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF CULTURE (KMK) AND THE WEST GERMAN RECTORS CONFERENCE (WRK). WRK SEES LITTLE MERIT IN IT. KMK IS STILL FAR FROM HAVING COMPLETED ITS THOROUGH REVIEW OF IT. FED MIN OF EDUCATION IS NEGATIVE ON THE BIG LIFT CONCEPT AS A WAY OF EASING THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE NUMEROUS CLAUSES BUT IS INTERESTED IN EXPANDING BY ABOUT 10 PERCENT THE FLOW OF GERMAN STUDENTS TO THE US, MAINLY AS A MEANS OF STRENGTHENING FRG-US CULTURAL TIES. IT IS GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE CREATION OF A NEW FRG-FINANCED DAAD-ADMINISTERED PROGRAM OF UP TO 200 GRANTS PER ANNUM FOR AMERICAN STUDIES BY GERMAN STUDENTS AT SELECTED US UNIVERSITIES, MAINLY ON THE UNDER-GRADUATE LEVEL. NEITHER THE MINISTRY NOR THE

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LAENDER APPEAR TO BE WILLING OR ABLE AT THIS TIME TO

PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO STEP, THE GEORGETOWN-RHEINLAND PFALZ PROJECT.

2. ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION OBTAINED IN RECENT WEEKS FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES, ESPECIALLY FROM OFFICIALS OF THE FED MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, THE KMK AND THE WRK, THE SITUATION IN REGARD TO THE SCHWARZ-SCHILLING PROPOSAL LOOKS AS FOLLOWS:

A. THE KMK IS MAKING A VERY THOROUGH STUDY OF THE PROPOSAL AND ALL ITS RAMIFICATIONS. ITS 11 MEMBER COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION HAS REFERRED THE JOB TO A THREE-MAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS WHICH HAS DRAWN UP A COMPLETE CATALOGUE OF ISSUES (SEE REFTEL B, PARA 2). IT HAS ALSO PROPOSED TO SEND A DELEGATION TO THE US TO STUDY THE PROBLEM ON THE SPOT BUT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THIS IS AT PRESENT ONLY A PROPOSAL NOT A PROJECT; AT LEAST THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FULBRIGHT COMMISSION (WHO ACCORDING TO REFTEL B IS TO BE A MEMBER OF THIS TEAM) HAS NOT BEEN CONTACTED. HIS PARTICIPATION WOULD BE SUBJECT TO COMMISSION APPROVAL. WHILE IT ONCE HAD BEEN EXPECTED THAT THE KMK WOULD HAVE A POSITION PAPER AND ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE SCHWARZ-SCHILLING PROPOSAL READY BY DECEMBER 1973, IT APPEARS NOW THAT IT WILL TAKE MANY MONTHS BEFORE THE KMK WILL HAVE COMPLETED ITS STUDY.

3. AS REPORTED IN REFTEL B, THE WEST GERMAN RECTORS CONFERENCE, WHOSE VOICE CARRIES CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT IN ACADEMIC CIRCLES, VIEWS THE SCHWARZ-SCHILLING PROPOSAL VERY SKEPTICALLY, BELIEVING AS IT DOES THAT THE REALITIES OF THE ACADEMIC SCENE IN BOTH NATIONS (LIMITED ADMISSIONS IN THE US TO FIELDS MOST HEAVILY HIT BY GERMANY'S NUMEROUS POLICIES, WIDE QUALITATIVE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US COLLEGES, LACK OF BINDING EQUIVALENCES BETWEEN FRG AND US UNIVERSITIES RE CREDITS AND DEGREES, LACK OF GUARANTEES THAT STUDENTS RETURNING TO GERMANY WILL BE ADMITTED TO FRG UNIVERSITIES) SPEAK AGAINST IT.

4. THE FED MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMPLETED A STUDY OF THE PROPOSAL. IT TAKES THE POSITION THAT AS A PROPOSAL TO RELIEVE THE PRESSURE ON GERMAN UNIVERSITIES CAUSED BY OVERCROWDING THE PROPOSAL CANNOT BE ENDORSED AND SUPPORTED BY THE FRG. GERMANY, IT FEELS, MUST SOLVE THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE NUMEROUS CLAUSES THROUGH REFORM OF AND INCREASED SUPPORT TO GERMAN HIGHER EDUCATION, NOT THROUGH AN ERSATZ STOPGAP SOLUTION IN FORM OF A CRASH PROGRAM WHICH

SHIPS LARGE NUMBERS OF NON-PLACED GERMAN STUDENTS TO THE
US. MOREOVER, IT COULD NOT BE JUSTIFIED, IT STATES,
TO SPEND ON EACH BIG LIFT STUDENT MORE THAN TWICE WHAT
IT COSTS TO STUDY IN GERMANY UNDER BAFOEG, THE FEDERAL
SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS AND

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TRAINEES; I.E., RATHER THAN SPEND 120 TO 150 MILLION DM
ANNUALLY FOR (SAY) 10,000 BIG LIFT SCHOLARSHIPS, SUCH
FUNDS, IF AVAILABLE, SHOULD BE APPLIED TO GERMAN HIGHER
AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND THUS LIFT OR EASE
NUMEROUS CLAUSUS RULES.

5. BUT THE MINISTRY IS VERY POSITIVE IN RESPECT TO
EXPANDING EXISTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR GERMAN UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS TO STUDY IN THE US FOR A LIMITED TIME AS PART
OF THEIR ACADEMIC WORK AND AS A MEANS OF STRENGTHENING
FRG-US CULTURAL-POLITICAL RELATIONS. IT IS EQUALLY
CONCERNED WITH PROJECTING A MORE POSITIVE FRG STANCE IN
REGARD TO THE SCHWARZ-SCHILLING PROPOSAL THAN UP TO NOW.
WHILE NOT PREPARED TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO STEP,

THE GEORGETOWN-RHEINLAND PFALZ PILOT PROJECT (REFTEL A), IT IS PRESENTLY SERIOUSLY DISCUSSING WITH THE GERMAN ACADEMIC EXCHANGE SERVICE (DAAD) A DAAD PROPOSAL TO AWARD UP TO 200 MINISTRY-FINANCED, DAAD/IEE-ADMINISTERED GRANTS ANNUALLY TO GERMAN STUDENTS, MAINLY ON THE UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL, TO STUDY AMERICAN CIVILIZATION (HISTORY, LITERATURE, POLITICAL SCIENCE, LANGUAGE, ETC.) FOR ONE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OR TWO YEARS AT SELECTED AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES. THIS PROPOSAL IS IN ESSENCE AN EXPANSION OF DAAD'S "ANGLISTENPROGRAMM" WHICH PROVIDES ANNUALLY 30-50 SIX-MONTH GRANTS TO GERMAN STUDENTS OF ENGLISH TO STUDY THE LANGUAGE AND CIVILIZATION OF ENGLAND AT ONE OF FIVE BRITISH UNIVERSITIES. UNDER DAAD'S PROPOSAL, THIS UK PROGRAM WOULD BE EXPANDED, TOO; MOREOVER, A LIMITED NUMBER OF GRANTS WOULD BE RESERVED FOR STUDY AT CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES.

6. AT THE SAME TIME, THE MINISTRY, RESPONDING TO INFORMAL EMBASSY PRESENTATIONS AND FORMAL PRESSURES BY THE GERMAN SOCIETY FOR AMERICA STUDIES, IS ENGAGED IN MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR BAFOEG STUDENTS TO APPLY THEIR GERMAN GOVERNMENT GRANTS TO STUDY IN THE U.S. HERETOFORE BAFOEG RULES MADE THIS WELL-NIGH IMPOSSIBLE: WHILE ENCOURAGING STUDIES IN EUROPE, THEY PERMITTED STUDY IN THE US ONLY IF THIS WAS "NECESSARY," AND MOST REQUESTS FOR STUDY IN THE US HAVE TO DATE BEEN REJECTED. BAFOEG STIPENDS WILL BE INADEQUATE FOR STUDY IN THE US (THEY ARE BEING UPPED FROM DM 420 TO DM 500 PER MONTH); BUT AWARDED FULBRIGHT OR DAAD GRANTS TO BAFOEG APPLICANTS WILL STRETCH FULBRIGHT AND DAAD FUNDS FURTHER.

7. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF THE GENERALLY UNENTHUSIASTIC IF NOT NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO SCHWARZ-SCHILLING'S BIG LIFT PROPOSAL, ESPECIALLY ON THE PART OF THOSE WHO CONTROL THE PURSES, IT IS CONSIDERED MOST UNLIKELY THAT IT WILL RESULT IN A LARGE-SCALE MOVEMENT OF GERMAN STUDENTS TO THE US. BUT IT MAY WELL PRODUCE AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 10 PERCENT IN THE FLOW OF FRG STUDENTS TO AMERICA, THOUGH PROBABLY NOT BEFORE THE 1975-76 ACADEMIC YEAR. NEITHER THE FRG NOR THE LAENDER APPEAR WILLING TO FINANCE STEP; ITS REALIZATION WILL HENCE DEPEND ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL FINANCING. THE CHANCE THAT AN FRG-FINANCED, DAAD-ADMINISTERED AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM FOR GERMAN UNDERGRADUATES WILL BE INITIATED ARE CONSIDERED REASONABLY GOOD.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL EXCHANGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BONN18436
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973126/aaaaadys.tel
Line Count: 220
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) FRANKFURT 8359; (B) STUTTGART 10, 64; (C) STATE
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29-Aug-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <28-Sep-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: "OPERATION BIG LIFT" - GERMAN STUDENTS TO US
TAGS: SCUL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005